

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action mailed November 2, 2005.

By this Amendment, claims 5 and 6 have been amended to address the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Further, claims 7 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to their underlying subject matter. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the specification and the original claims. Claims 5 and 6 are currently pending in this application.

In view of these amendments, Applicant believes that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for his consideration during the telephone interviews regarding these claim amendments.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

However, in the interest of expediting the allowance of the present application, Applicant has amended claims 5 and 6 to overcome the Examiner's concerns. Specifically, Applicant has replaced the phrase "*wherein the grid-shaped AM screen is gradually formed from the halftone portion, and the AM screen is completely formed at a region of the shadow portion*" with the phrases "*the grid-shaped AM screen **being** gradually formed from the halftone portion, and the AM screen **being** completely formed at a region of the shadow portion*". Applicant has also replaced the phrase "*wherein the grid-shaped AM screen is gradually applied from the halftone portion, and the AM screen is completely applied at the region of the shadow portion*" with the phrase "*the grid-shaped AM screen **being** gradually applied from the halftone portion, and the AM screen being completely applied at the region of the shadow portion*".

Applicant notes, however, that the amendments should not change the original intended meaning of the claims. The original phrases "*wherein the grid-shaped AM screen is gradually formed from the halftone portion, and the AM screen is completely formed at a region of the shadow portion*" and "*wherein the grid-shaped AM screen is gradually applied from the halftone portion, and the AM screen is completely applied at the region of the shadow portion*"

should not have been interpreted to not be positively set forth. The phrases should be interpreted to define structure. “*The grid-shaped AM screen being gradually formed or applied from the halftone portion, and the AM screen being completely formed or applied at a region of the shadow portion*” or “*the grid-shaped AM screen being gradually applied from the halftone portion, and the AM screen being completely applied at the region of the shadow portion*” have a structure well known in the art of gravure printing. These limitations define the gradual presence of the AM screen on the printing rolls. In other words, these phrases are used to define structure by identifying the location (i.e. *from the halftone portion*) on the printing roll where the grid-shaped AM screen is gradually formed or applied. It should be noted that a preferred aspect of the present invention is that the cells of an AM screen and a FM screen are present on a printing roll in a mixed state. It should also be noted that another preferred aspect of the present invention is that the cells of the AM screen and the FM screen are not present in a mixed state at any one of the rolls, but rolls having cells of the AM screen and other rolls having cells of the FM screen are present in a mixed state in the plurality of printing rolls (see page 13, lines 1-11). Such an understanding clarifies the need to define “*the grid-shaped AM screen being gradually formed or applied from the halftone portion*”.

Nevertheless, to address the Examiner’s concerns in this regard, Applicant has amended claims 5 and 6 to state “*the grid-shaped AM screen **being gradually formed or applied from the halftone portion, and the AM screen being completely formed or applied at the region of the shadow portion***”.

Thus, in view of the claim amendments, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, all of the claims now pending in the present application are believed to be clearly patentable over the outstanding rejection. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the claims in light of the above remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Dated: February 1, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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